

Important Advances in Clinical Medicine

Epitomes of Progress -- Pathology

The Scientific Board of the California Medical Association presents the following inventory of items of progress in Pathology. Each item, in the judgment of a panel of knowledgeable physicians, has recently become reasonably firmly established, both as to scientific fact and important clinical significance. The items are presented in simple epitome and an authoritative reference, both to the item itself and to the subject as a whole is generally given for those who may be unfamiliar with a particular item. The purpose is to assist the busy practitioner, student, research worker or scholar to stay abreast of these items of progress in Pathology which have recently achieved a substantial degree of authoritative acceptance, whether in his own field of special interest or another.

The items of progress listed below were selected by the Advisory Panel to the Section on Pathology of the California Medical Association and the summaries were prepared under its direction.

Reprint requests to: Division of Scientific and Educational Activities, 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102

Small Intestinal Biopsies

Since the advent of Ian Wood's studies on biopsy material obtained from the gastric mucosa by peroral suction, diagnosis of small intestinal mucosal disease has become possible

with improved instrumentation. Currently, the suction biopsy tubes with multiple apertures and new hydraulic models used for this purpose quickly and safely obtain tissue which is suitable for study.

The normal histological characteristics of the jejunum are now well described and it is clear that a number of diseases can be diagnosed by characteristic morphologic changes. Fresh specimens must be properly sectioned and mounted, however, before definitive conclusions regarding disease may be made.